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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 21 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 15 to 19 December 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 15-19 December 1997

1. In the northern region 42 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo, Rawanduz and Atrush.

2. In the southern region 504 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Afak, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Ali al-Sharqi, Ali al-Gharbi, Rifa'i, Rumaythah, Habariyah, Rahhaliyah, Khidr, Basra, Hayy, Shatrah, Taqtaqanah, Amarah, Lasaf, Hamzah, Diwaniyah, Qala't Sukkar, Nukhayb and Qal'at Salih.

3. One sortie was flown by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres.

4. At 1550 and 1621 hours on 11 December 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

5. At 1530, 1545 and 1615 hours on 15 December 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

6. At 1050 hours on 16 December 1997, a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier in the Shu'aybah area.